

IDAPA 58 - DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

58.01.02 - WATER QUALITY STANDARDS

DOCKET NO. 58-0102-1102

NOTICE OF RULEMAKING - PROPOSED RULEMAKING

AUTHORITY: In compliance with Section 67-5221(1), Idaho Code, notice is hereby given that this agency has initiated proposed rulemaking. This action is authorized by Sections 39-105, 39-107, and 39-3601 et seq., Idaho Code.

PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULE: No hearings have been scheduled. Pursuant to Section 67-5222(2), Idaho Code, a public hearing will be held if requested in writing by twenty-five (25) persons, a political subdivision, or an agency. Written requests for a hearing must be received by the undersigned on or before August 19, 2011. If no such written request is received, a public hearing will not be held.

DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY: DEQ proposes to revise its Water Quality Standards, IDAPA 58.01.02, to include a site-specific temperature criterion for the Snake River to protect fall spawning of Chinook salmon from Hell's Canyon Dam to the Salmon River. This site-specific criterion would be a change from the current criterion of a maximum weekly maximum of 13°C from October 23rd through April 15th to a site-specific criterion of a weekly maximum temperature (WMT) of 14.5°C from Oct 23rd through November 6th and a WMT of 13°C from November 7th through April 15th. The first date a WMT can be calculated is October 29th. The proposed rule change recognizes the declining thermal regime in the Snake River during the fall spawning season and that higher temperatures at the outset of the spawning season are both protective and supportive of the fall Chinook salmon spawning and incubation occurring in the Snake River during this time. This proposed rule change recognizes that a need to change the site-specific temperature criterion in the Snake River between the Hell's Canyon Dam and the confluence with the Salmon River exists. The current site-specific criterion of 13°C between October 23rd and April 15th is not regularly met during the first 14 days of the fall spawning season and yet salmonid spawning and incubation is at the highest levels of the last two decades. The proposed rule changes the temperature criteria to 14.5°C for the first 14 days of the spawning period and then reduced to 13°C for the balance of the fall and early spring.

All who fish and recreate in the Snake River, Idaho Power Company who operates the Hell's Canyon Dam, and Native American tribes may be interested in commenting on this proposed rule. The proposed rule text is in legislative format. Language the agency proposes to add is underlined. Language the agency proposes to delete is struck out. It is these additions and deletions to which public comment should be addressed.

After consideration of public comments, DEQ intends to present the final proposal to the Board of Environmental Quality at the November 2011 Board meeting for adoption as a pending rule. The rule is expected to be final and effective upon the adjournment of the 2012 legislative session if adopted by the Board and approved by the Legislature.

INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE: Pursuant to Section 67-5229(2)(a), Idaho Code, the following is a brief synopsis of why the incorporation by reference is necessary: Not applicable.

NEGOTIATED RULEMAKING: The text of the proposed rule has been drafted based on discussions held and concerns raised during negotiations conducted pursuant to Section 67-5220, Idaho Code, and IDAPA 58.01.23.810-815. On June 1, 2011, the Notice of Negotiated Rulemaking was published in the [Idaho Administrative Bulletin, Vol. 11-6, pages 77 through 78](#), and a preliminary draft rule was made available for public review. A meeting was held on June 21, 2011. Several members of the public participated in this negotiated rulemaking process by attending the meeting and by submitting written comments. A record of the negotiated rule drafts, written comments received, and documents distributed during the negotiated rulemaking process is available at <http://www.deq.idaho.gov/58-0102-1102-proposed>.

IDAHO CODE SECTION 39-107D STATEMENT: The standards included in this proposed rule are not broader in scope, nor more stringent, than federal regulations and do not regulate an activity not regulated by the federal government.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT: The following is a specific description, if applicable, of any negative fiscal impact on the state general fund greater than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) during the fiscal year when the pending rule will become effective: Not applicable.

ASSISTANCE ON TECHNICAL QUESTIONS AND SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN COMMENTS: For assistance on technical questions concerning this rulemaking, contact Don Essig at don.essig@deq.idaho.gov, (208)373-0119.

Anyone may submit written comments by mail, fax or e-mail at the address below regarding this proposed rule. DEQ will consider all written comments received by the undersigned on or before September 2, 2011.

DATED this 8th day of July, 2011.

Paula J. Wilson
Hearing Coordinator
Department of Environmental Quality
1410 N. Hilton
Boise, Idaho 83706-1255
(208)373-0418/Fax No. (208)373-0481
paula.wilson@deq.idaho.gov

THE FOLLOWING IS THE PROPOSED TEXT OF DOCKET NO. 58-0102-1102

286. SNAKE RIVER, SUBSECTION 130.01, HUC 17060101, UNIT S1, S2, AND S3; SITE-SPECIFIC CRITERIA FOR WATER TEMPERATURE.

~~A maximum weekly maximum temperature of thirteen degrees C (13C) to protect fall chinook spawning and incubation applies from October 23rd through April 15th in the Snake River from Hell's Canyon Dam to the Salmon River.~~ Weekly maximum temperatures (WMT) are regulated to protect fall chinook spawning and incubation in the Snake River from Hell's Canyon Dam to the confluence with the Salmon River from October 23 through April 15. Because the WMT is a lagged seven (7) day average, the first WMT is not applicable until the seventh day of this time period, or October 29. A WMT is calculated for each day after October 29 based upon the daily maximum temperature for that day and the prior six (6) days. From October 29 through November 6, the WMT must not exceed fourteen point five degrees C (14.5°C). From November 7 through April 15, the WMT must not exceed thirteen degrees C (13°C). (4-6-05)()